

memorandum

date February 11, 2010

to Chehalis River Basin Flood Authority

from ESA Adolfson

subject Flood Plan

Introduction

In June 2009, the Chehalis River Basin Draft Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan (Draft Flood Plan) was presented to the Flood Authority and released to the public via the Flood Authority's web site. The Draft Flood Plan defines the flood problems in the basin and proposes solutions to those problems. The Draft Flood Plan is based on the existing Flood Plans prepared by member jurisdictions. The Draft Flood Plan has been revised in recent months and is ready for public review and approval by the Flood Authority.

This memorandum summarizes the revisions that have been made to the Draft Flood Plan and presents ESA Adolfson's recommendations for moving forward with approval of the plan.

Revisions Since June 2009

In November 2009, ESA Adolfson presented a new chapter on governance and finance to the Flood Authority. That chapter summarizes funding mechanisms for flood hazard mitigation and describes different flood district options. The information has been incorporated into the Flood Plan as a new Chapter 8, Funding Options.

The Flood Authority established a Regulatory Work Group in June 2009 to formulate recommendations for improvements to flood management regulations. ESA Adolfson facilitated Work Group meetings in Fall 2009 and presented the group's recommendations to the Flood Authority in January 2010. Those recommendations are being incorporated into the Flood Plan as part of Chapter 9, Recommended Actions.

The Draft Plan has also been updated to reflect changes that have occurred since June 2009. For example, both the Chehalis Tribe and Thurston County have updated or finalized their Flood Plans and that information has been included.

Summary of Board Advisory Committee Comments

Members of the Flood Authority recommended that the Draft Flood Plan needed a thorough review by representatives of member jurisdictions. To achieve this, ESA Adolfson prepared a revised version of the Draft Flood Plan and distributed it to members of the Board Advisory Committee (BAC). The revised version included the new Funding Options chapter, but not the recommended regulatory improvements which had not yet been presented to the Flood Authority. It also included some edits and updates.

ESA Adolfson received comments from the BAC in early February 2010. ESA Adolfson met with the BAC on February 4 to discuss the comments on the plan. Most of the BAC's comments were minor corrections or reports of updated information. ESA Adolfson is making those corrections and updating the information.

The BAC had two comments that were more significant. These comments and the proposed resolutions are presented below.

- The level of detail of background information presented in Chapter 2, Study Area Characteristics, is not consistent for all areas in the basin.

The group decided that some of the detail in Chapter 2 such as the detail about soils types is not necessary to the Flood Plan. ESA Adolfson will edit Chapter 2 to reduce the level of detail to an appropriate amount. We will also review the major sources used to Chapter 2 to see if inconsistencies can be resolved.

- Some of the information seems to be more focused on Lewis County than on other areas of the basin.

ESA Adolfson explained to the BAC that the scope of the Draft Flood Plan was limited to compiling information from the existing flood plans of member jurisdictions. Because the plan prepared by Lewis County was the most recent and most detailed, that plan was relied on for much of the information in the Draft Flood Plan, especially the chapters on Basin Flood Characteristics and Flood Problem Areas. ESA Adolfson will include additional information from the revised Thurston County Comprehensive Flood Hazard Management Plan and will look to see if FEMA has made updated information on the more recent floods available. We will also ensure that the statements in the Flood Plan that explain why some of the information is Lewis County focused are more obvious.

Proposal for Flood Authority Adoption of Basin-Wide Plan

ESA Adolfson will incorporate the corrections and revisions noted above into a revised Flood Plan which will be presented to the Flood Authority at its March meeting. ESA Adolfson recommends that the Flood Authority move toward adopting the Flood Plan by June 2010. The following steps should be taken toward plan adoption.

Conduct Public Meetings. In order to adopt the Flood Plan, the Flood Authority should conduct public meetings on the revised plan. ESA Adolfson recommends that the Flood Authority conduct two public meetings on the Flood Plan. One could be held in the Chehalis/Centralia area and one could be held in the Montesano area. This would be comparable to the public meetings that the Flood Authority held in February 2009. In order to meet a schedule for approving the plan in June, the public meetings should be held in early April.

Revise the Flood Plan in Response to Public Comments. ESA Adolfson will revise the Flood Plan in response to relevant public comments and will present the revised version to the Flood Authority at its May meeting.

Flood Authority Adoption of the Flood Plan. The Flood Authority should adopt the Flood Plan for the Chehalis Basin at its June meeting.

Flood Authority Recommendation that Member Jurisdictions Adopt the Flood Plan. The Flood Authority should pass a motion recommending that member jurisdictions adopt the basin-wide flood plan. The motion should be passed in June.